

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1186

By Ms. Wolf of Cambridge, petition of Alice K. Wolf and others for legislation to establish a working group on improving the financing system for charter schools in the Commonwealth. Education.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### PETITION OF:

Alice K. Wolf                      Joyce A. Spiliotis  
Alice Hanlon Peisch

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP ON IMPROVING THE FINANCING SYSTEM FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1     Notwithstanding any general or special law or regulation to the  
2     contrary, there shall be a working group to study all aspects of and  
3     make recommendations on legislation to change the current  
4     tuition financing system for charter schools. The first meeting of  
5     the working group shall take place within 30 days after the effec-  
6     tive date of this section. The working group shall consist of the  
7     speaker of the house of representatives, or his designee, the presi-  
8     dent of the senate, or his designee, the minority leaders of the  
9     house and senate, or their designees, the house and senate chairs  
10    of the joint committee on education, arts and humanities and the  
11    chairs of the house and senate committee on ways and means and  
12    two (2) appointees of the Governor.

13    Based on the findings of its study, the working group shall  
14    make recommendations on how the existing financing system can  
15    be improved in order to more closely align the funds sent to  
16    charter schools from state and local sources with the funds that  
17    would have been expended on the education of the charter school  
18    students if they remained in the districts from which they are

19 drawn. The recommendations shall reflect the fact that charter  
20 schools are a creation of the commonwealth and a reasonable por-  
21 tion of the funding should be assumed by the state. The recom-  
22 mendations shall reflect actual costs associated with the grade  
23 level, program participation and demographic profile of students  
24 attending charter schools, including all capital costs, transporta-  
25 tion costs and other factors which contribute to the actual cost of  
26 educating these students. The working group shall also examine  
27 the relationship between charter school funding and state educa-  
28 tion funding under chapter 70 of the General Laws, and shall  
29 ensure that any recommendations for changes in charter school  
30 funding are consistent with the principles, objectives and formulas  
31 embodied in the funding formula under said chapter 70. Any leg-  
32 islation proposed by the working group shall require that funding  
33 be reflective of the grade level, program participation and demo-  
34 graphic profile of the actual students enrolled in charter schools.  
35 The working group shall compile data which shall compare the  
36 demographic profile and educational needs that characterize  
37 charter school students with those that characterize students in the  
38 districts from which they are sent. The working group shall solicit  
39 advice from such persons and entities as it deems necessary,  
40 including the department of education, as well as associations rep-  
41 resenting superintendents, school budget officers, municipal offi-  
42 cials and charter schools. The working group shall file a report  
43 containing its recommendations, including legislation necessary to  
44 carry out its recommendations, with the joint committee on educa-  
45 tion, arts and humanities on or before December 1, 2005.